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NUNC COGNOSCO EX PARTE

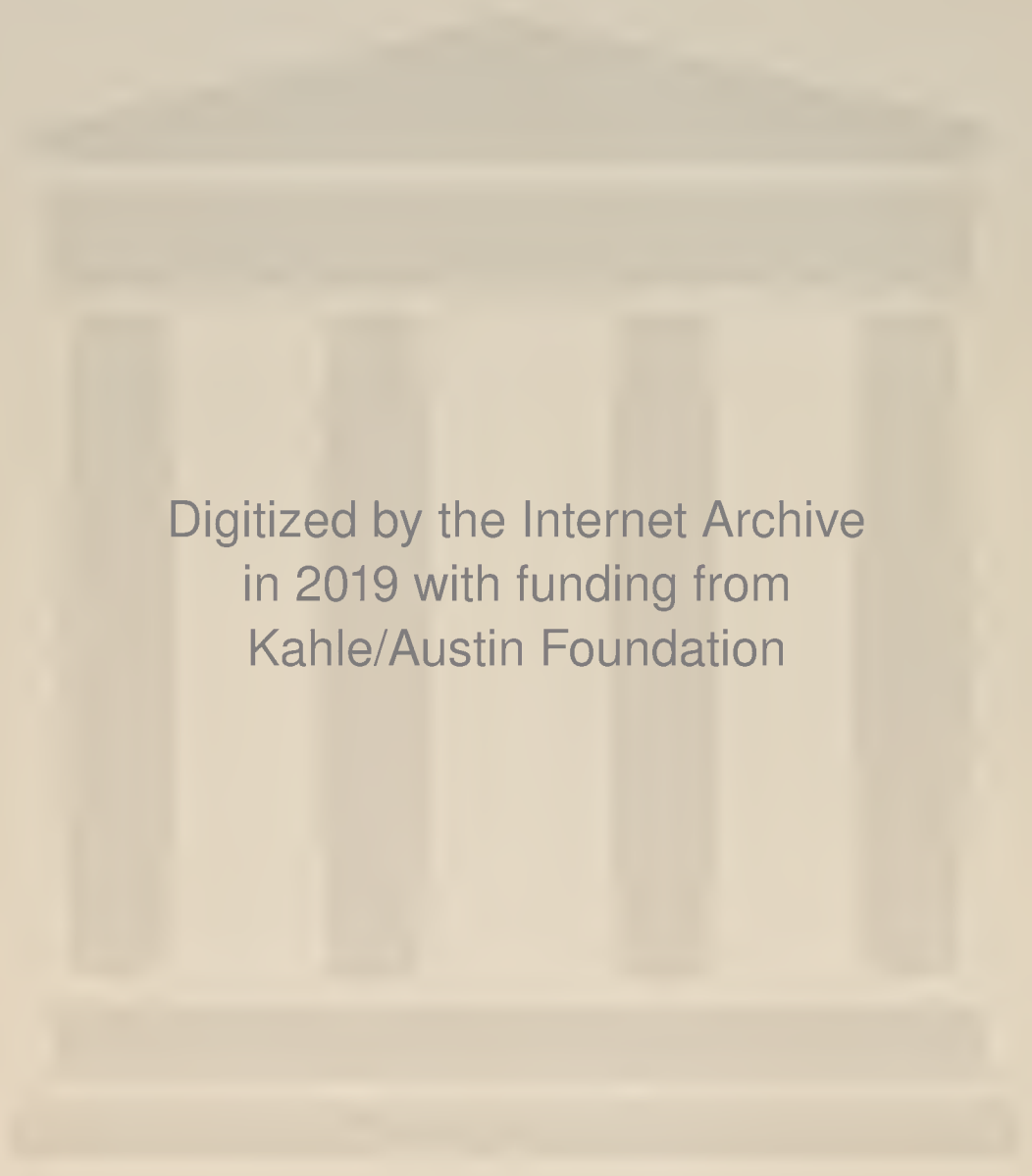


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OUT OF THE ARK

By the same Author

LESS EMINENT VICTORIANS
POEMS UPON SEVERAL OCCASIONS
A LYTTEL BOKE OF NONSENSE
ETC.

OUT OF THE ARK

OR

CREATURES FACETIOUS

IN

CUT AND DOGGEREL

BY

R. D.

Author of *Little Else*

The Christmas Goose has broken loose, *
And wanders o'er the lea ;
The Fatted Calf has come in half,
What shall we do for tea ?

Old Song.

London
Peter Davies

1930

PR 6007 . A750871930

Published in October 1930

Printed in Great Britain by T. and A. CONSTABLE LTD.
at the University Press, Edinburgh

NOTE

The Animal World is occupied by quite as many and various, if not as brilliant, specimens as is the World of Art. Some of the artists whose works adorn the following pages are as well known as their subjects, but besides Albrecht Dürer, Lucas Cranach, Wenceslaus Hollar, Stradanus, Géricault and Harrison Weir, whose signatures are decipherable thereon, there are Julius Caesar [no comma here] Ibbetson, Samuel Howitt, Francis Barlow, J. E. Ridinger and Baron de Séve to thank ; and our old Italian friends Anonimo and Amico di Nessuno.

R. D.

CHELSEA, 1930.

CREATURES FACETIOUS

8

A

THE LION'S SHARE

How satisfied a Lion feels
If he can only have his meals !
The one that you 're beholding now
Has just consumed a total cow,
And hopes, if everything goes well,
To follow it with a gazelle.
Abuse the Lion as you will,
But let, oh let him, have his fill ;
Abuse the Lion as you may,
But give him something once a day ;
Abuse the Lion if you like,
He never goes on hunger strike.

•



A Lion gorged proper.

POOR PAPA

No doubt there was a little breeze
When Father tried to pinch the cheese,
And honestly we thought that Mum
Might very well have spared him some.
For Father never has the nous
To go and forage in the house,
And though he has a wicked look
He's terribly afraid of Cook.



The Dog Family.

NOT VERY

How can any one be friends
With the idiots called Hens ?
Wherefore, in the name of Cupid,
Are they so profoundly stupid ?
Haven't even got the zest
To insist upon a nest.
What a terrible routine
Just to be an egg machine !
What a satire on the life
Of a Mormon Elder's wife !



Domestic Fowls.

HEREUNTO AFFIXED

The Seal now leaves her watery nest,
Having been ordered perfect rest,
And stretched upon the Arctic shore
Determines she will work no more.



The Common Seal.

LITERATURE AND COMMERCE

This Cut suggests, perhaps you feel,
A book called “ Lady into Seal,”
Which would not do so very badly
To dedicate to Messrs. Bradley.

(Advt.).



The Great Seal.

NOMINAL VALUE

Reader, I honestly forget
When last I saw a Marmoset,
In fact, if I were really pressed
Perhaps 'twould have to be confessed
That I 'm unable to recall
Ever to have seen one at all.
It may be so ; but all the same
I revel in its lovely name.
Imagination, Marmoset,
Conceives you as a perfect pet !



Marmoset imaginaire.

LOVE AND WATER

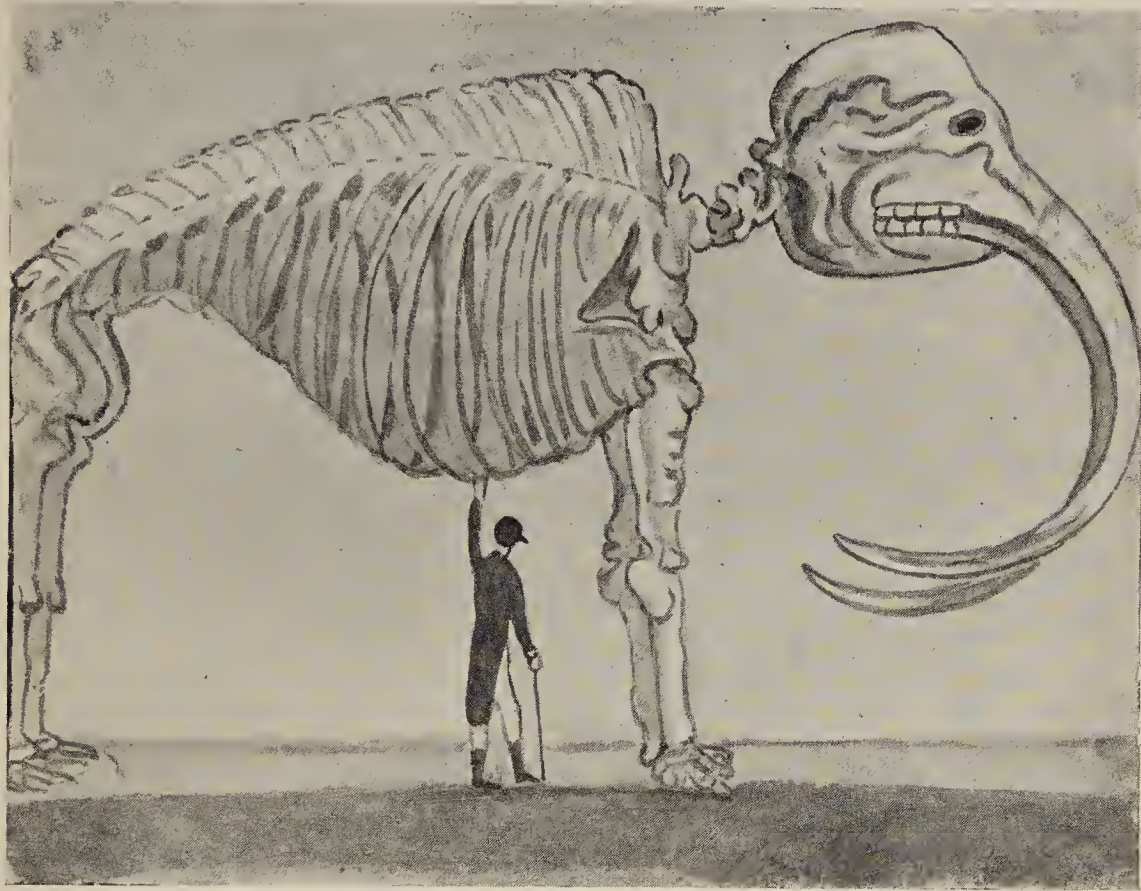
In days of yore there lived a Trout
Who tried to climb a waterspout,
And failing in the third attempt
He fell asleep and wildly dreamt
That his baptismal name was John
And that he madly loved a Swan
Which used to circle round the lake
And beg for little bits of cake.
With coy precision he 'd begin
To blow her kisses with his fin,
While she (though inwardly a minx)
Preserved the carriage of the Sphinx—
Though now and then she used to talk
To a disreputable Stork,
Until the Lady of the Lake,
In order to avoid mistake,
Arrived one morning on the scene
Thinking it time to intervene.



The Trout and Others.

ELEPHAS MAS GIGAS AS

No mortal has attempted yet
To keep a Mammoth for a pet,
Though Uncle Edward used to pat
The one that you are looking at
And say, with pardonable pride,
“ This is the one I used to ride ;
His tusks are turned the wrong way round
And very nearly touch the ground,
So when he turned head over heels
It was as if he was on wheels.”
Of course you know (or do you not ?)
That Uncle Ned was talking rot.



A Mammoth Success.

A HAIRY ONE

I don't know what this bird is called,
But once it was completely bald,
And when it left the Orinoco
Somebody treated it with koko,
Which (as you ought to be aware)
Does perfect wonders for the hair.



Variegated Duck.

ON WITH THE DANCE

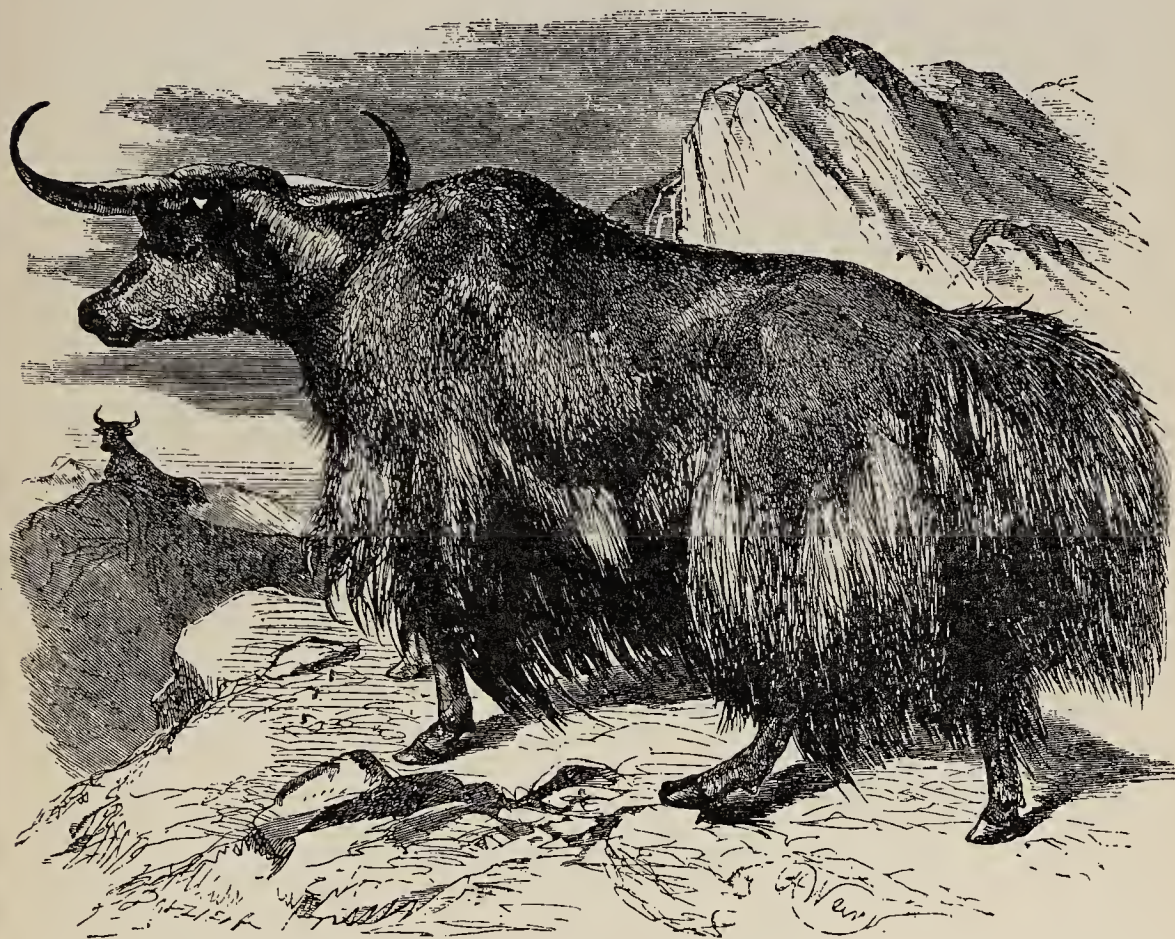
This highly educated Pig
Declared he didn't care a fig
For anybody small or big,
And then began to dance a jig.



A Performing Pig.

FOLLOWING THE FASHION

It 's very hard (said Mrs. Yak)
That longer skirts are coming back.
I never cared for wearing shorts
For cricket and athletic sports—
In fact, I generally found
That if it didn't reach the ground,
A skirt was seldom in the way
Whether for walking or for play ;
But now (and with the flounces on)
I simply can't keep up with John.



The great Quilted Yak.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

These little birds, I 'm pretty sure,
Have never heard of manicure,
For if they had, I think, you know,
They would be shorter in the toe.



Long-nailed Ousels.

ALL TALKIE

Although we don't know what 's the row
Our sympathies are with the sow,
For if there 's ever any doubt
Concerning what a row 's about
We naturally feel inclined
To sympathise with womankind.
And if the wolf is here for theft
We should not like the Sow bereft
Of any of her tasty brood
That are so good for human food.



Wolf and Sow.

WHAT 'S IN A NAME ?

How all the others must have laughed
When Aoudaddy felt the draught
And all his hair was blown away
As he so nobly stood at bay.
If only he had faced the wind
He wouldn't have been bare behind.



The Blasted Aoudad.

VENERY

Although it may sound very swagger
To chase a Stag and make him stagger,
I do not care the very least
For hunting such a handsome beast.
But it 's amusing, now and then,
To stalk the Monarch of the Glen ;
And as I very rarely shoot,
And still more rarely hit the brute,
I need do nothing all the day
To vex the R.S.P.C.A.



The Bald-faced Stag.

HORSEPLAY

Let Nags delight to kick and bite,
For they are better so
Than pulling waggons day and night,
For ever on the go.

Time was, when grandpapa was young,
And long before and since,
The Horse, as many a bard has sung,
Was treated like a prince :

They fed him on a bag of oats,
On beans they made him feast.
Between Land's End and John o' Groat's
There was no nobler beast.

Though now, alas, he 's out at grass
And out at elbows too,
So wait until he 's had his fill
And send him to the Zoo.



Wild Horses.

AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS

You will not, I sincerely hope,
Deride the female antelope
For posing with a smothered laugh
When sitting for her photograph.



Great Unspotted Antelope.

INDIAN UNREST

There was an old man of Lucknow
Who was frightfully anxious to plough :
 But the family bull
 Wasn't anxious to pull,
And his apathy spread to the Cow.



Cattle—the Common Herd.

ADVICE TO SPORTSMEN

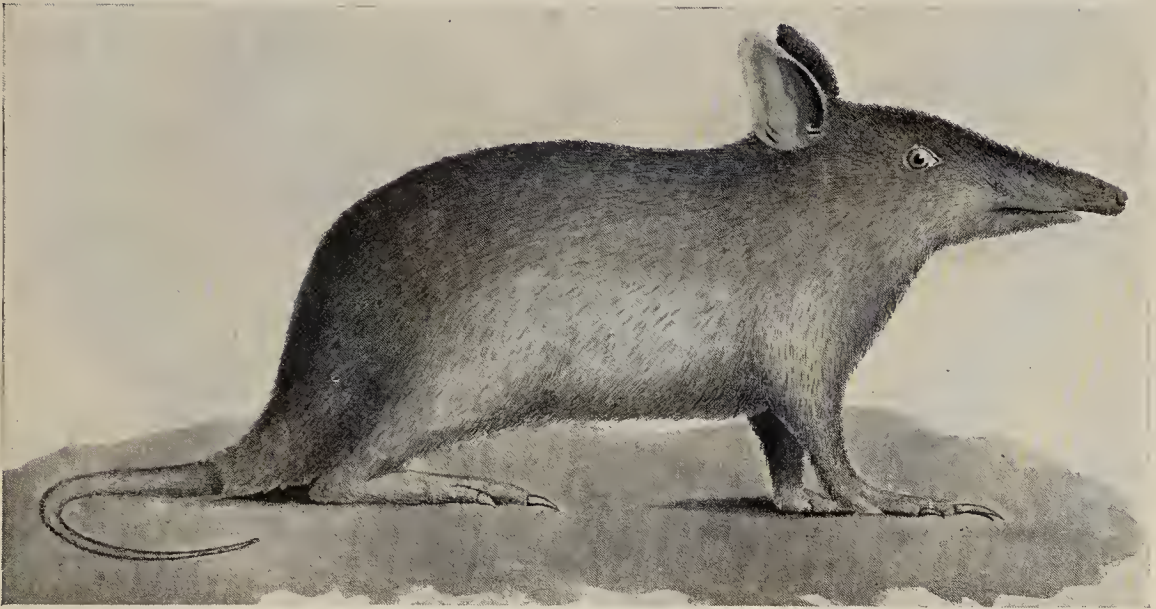
If you 're ever tired of golfin'
Go and hunt the Great White Dolphin
(*Delphinapterus Beluga*,
Something like a loaf of sugar) ;
When you 've tracked him to his lair
Do not lift him by the hair,
Take him gently by the tail,
For he 's very like a whale.



The Great White Dolphin.

VERY LIKE A RAT

This Rat was once so wan and thin,
Its bones were starting through its skin,
When luckily it found a lot
Of Glaxo in the Coffee pot.
And everybody ought to know
That that 's the stuff to make you grow.
(Advt.).



The Long-nosed Perameles.

SIMIAN ETHICS

A white-nosed monkey from a barrow
Stole a vegetable marrow ;
When asked to share it there was trouble brewing,
Because he merely answered, “ Nothing doing.”



The White-nosed Monkey.

WANTON EXTRAVAGANCE

In the Spring the wanton Lapwing
Gets himself another crest,
And I leave it to the reader
To decide which suits him best.



The Two-headed Lapwing.

FOR THE BIG-GAME HUNTER

If you should ever chance to meet
A Sukotyro in the street,
You should not hesitate to shoot,
For he 's a most ferocious brute.



Sukotyro.

BOISTEROUS EVICTION

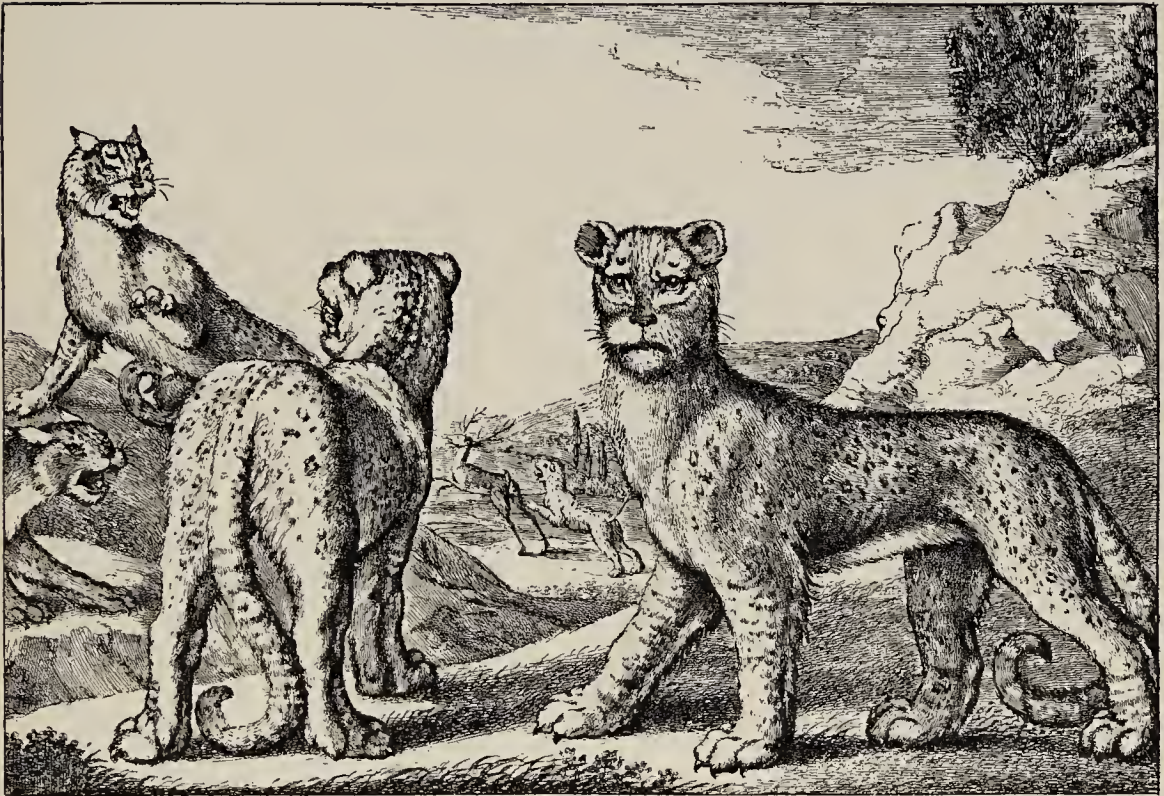
The Stork now leaves her watery nest.
(Under the circs., perhaps it 's best.)
The Spaniel barks with all his might.
(Under the circs., perhaps he 's right.)



Stork and Spaniel.

TOUCHING THE SPOT

Your tail is spotted to the root, O Leopard.
(You cannot well reply that it is not.)
And when you fixed your gaze upon the Shepherd
He, the poor man, was rooted to the spot.



Leopards.

LOST AND FOUND

There was an old man of Mount Pelion
Who lost a much-cherished Chameleon.
They said, “ Don’t you see, She has run up a Tree ? ”
Which he thought was a line from Aurelian.

•



Woodland Chameleon.

NOT A BEAU

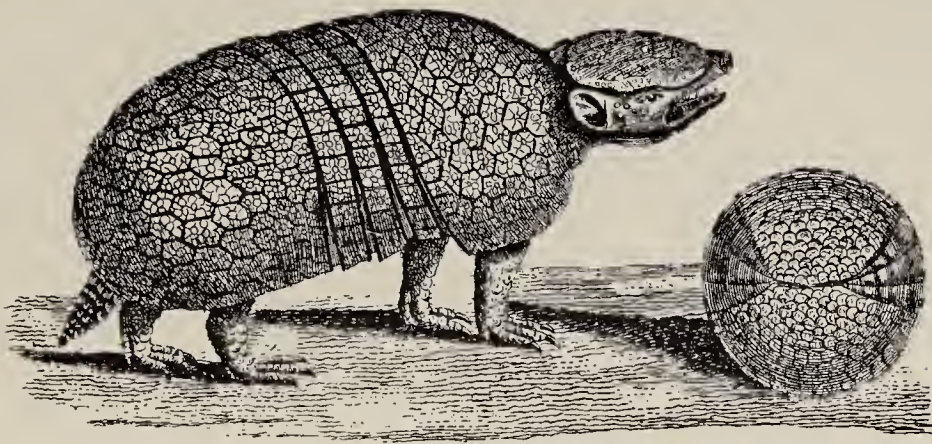
I do not like the long-armed Ape,
His hands are such a nasty shape,
And—if you want the honest truth—
His manners (shall I say ?)—uncouth.
Perhaps he would improve, poor brute,
If he would only eat more fruit.
(Advt.).



The Long-armed Ape.

AN ARMoured PILLOW

There was an old man of Prickwillow
Who tamed a superb Armadillo ;
 Though brought from Rangoon
 It would feed from a spoon,
And would roll itself up for a pillow.



Old Crusted Armadillo.

A MYSTERY BEAST

When you see a Siyah Ghush
Wait until he makes a rush.
If it is in your direction
And you find on close inspection
That his fur resembles plush,
Then your policy is—Hush !



The Siyah Ghush.

NEWS FROM NOWHERE

I knew a Gnu, and you anew
Shall hear the tale of how I slew
The jackals which around him crept
And tried to eat him while he slept.
I loved the Gnu as few beside
To love a Gnu have ever tried,
And hated all the jackal tribe
Like judges who accept a bribe.
I saw the horrid skulking brutes
And carefully removed my boots ;
For whatsoever I might do
I did not want to wake the Gnu,
For he was very timid, and
He might not fully understand
The danger that environed, or
What I had got my pistol for.
Then, taking a most deadly aim,
I waited till the jackals came
A little nearer to the Gnu,
And shot the whole unholy crew.
Up to the time when this occurred
The sleeping Gnu had never stirred,
But wakened by the horrid din
He took the situation in,
And with a truly grateful mien
Retired swiftly from the scene,
Though I could see him still afar—
His eye was brighter than a star !



Bright-eyed Gnu.

A Highbrow Hybrid

This Creature that you here behold
Exemplifies the stories told
Of Mr. Darwin's wondrous plan
For tracing the Descent of Man
From Monkeys living in the Trees—
The Origin of Species.
For Mr. Darwin had a hound
That envied all the creatures round,
And couldn't bear to see the Apes
Attempting to have human shapes,
And rats with very lengthy tails,
And wanted to have finger-nails.
But having once acquired the knack
Of psycho-metric pseudo-quack
He soon was able to acquire
The various features you admire.
And thanks to natural selection
Thought himself about Perfection.

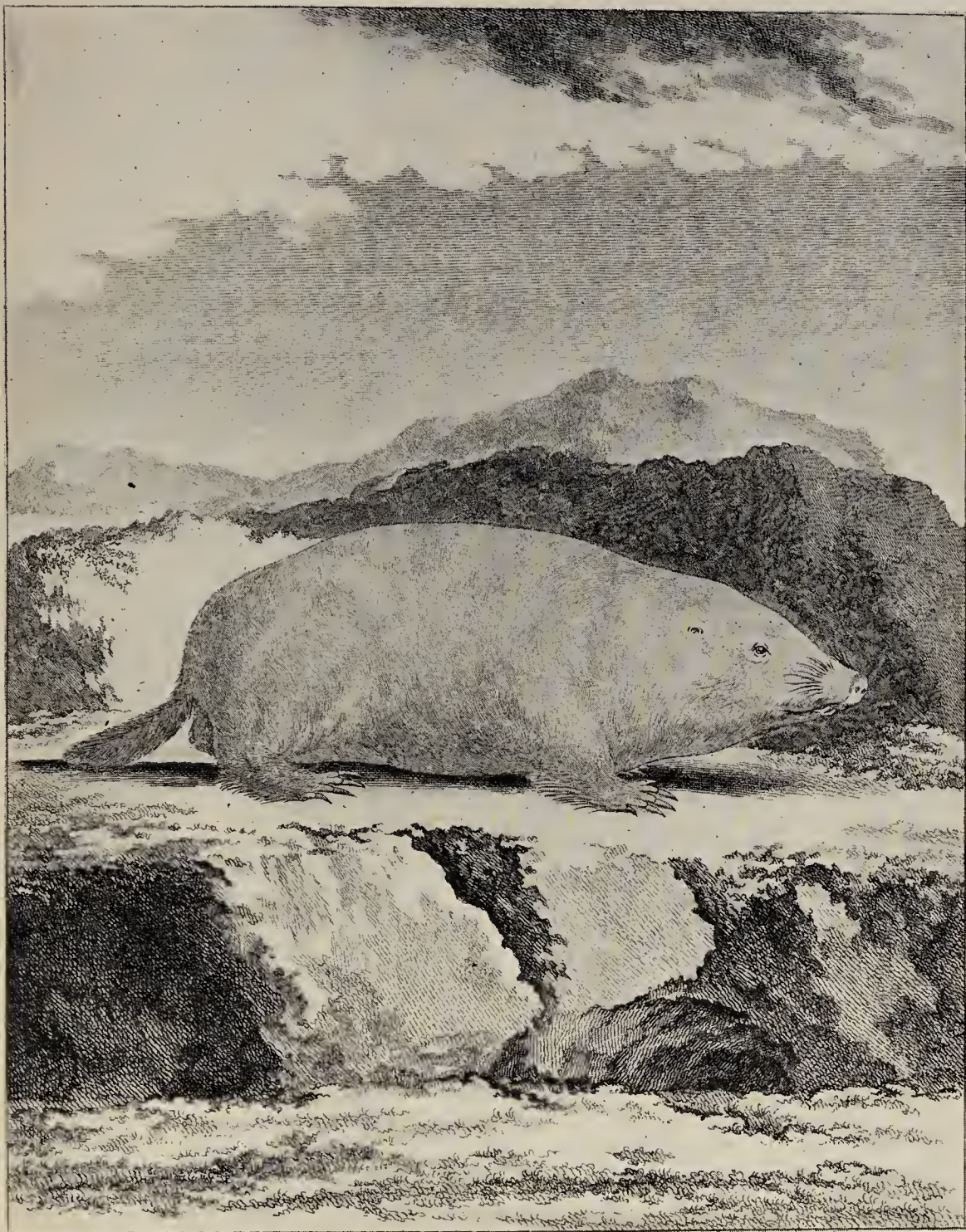


Calabrian Bee Hound.

HOW NOW, OLD MOLE ?

This Mole, it 's very clearly seen,
Has been brought up on Ovaltine,
Or else it would not be around
But would have burrowed underground.
You 've heard of people being afraid
Of mountains out of molehills made,
But look at this prodigious mole,
It 's much too big for any hole.
Thus, with the help of Ovaltine,
A Mole becomes a Zeppelin.

(Advt.)



Cape, or Oval, Mole.

MUSA PEDESTRIS

We wonder if this hasty Moose
Is going out upon the loose,
Or off to reach without fatigue
A meeting of our Dumb Friends' League.



The Highspeed Moose.

OUR COMMON FOE

This beast is known to incommode
The users of the open road.



The Road Hog (Porcus Atrox).

A LITERARY CAUSERIE

Said Auntie (sitting on the rocks),
“ Have you read *Lady into Fox* ?
You ought to get it if you can,
It rivals *The Descent of Man*.”



Ape and Fox.

A VERY, VERY PAYJOCK

This inconsiderate, ill-mannered bird
Made the most dreadful noise you ever heard,
Till Juno, unable to make him desist,
Turned him into a —— motorist.



Popingay.

AH ! SWEET CONTENT

Don't you think the Harpy Eagle
Looks uncomfortably regal ?
Possibly a drop of Syrup
Might effectuate a chirrup,
As prepared by Mother Siegel.

(Advt.).



Harpy Eagle.

AIR :—" I 'D BE A BUTTERFLY "

I 'd be a Buffalo born in a bower,
Roaming the prairie in sunshine and shower,
Or (if the weather were cloudy and dry)
Watching the grasshoppers galloping by.

Born in a bower and bred in the plains,
Often I 'd get in the way of the trains,
But in sunshine and shower I 'd continue to roam,
Singing " Buffalo, Buffalo, fly away home ! "



American Bison.

THE OPTIMIST

A most remarkable old cuss
Is Mr. Hippopotamus,
He lives upon the river Nile
And always greets you with a smile,
For if his boots are ever tight
He goes barefooted all the night,
And when his tail gets rather sore
He ties it up with bits of straw.



Hippopotamus, or Behemoth.

THE PESSIMIST

How different is Mrs. Hipp,
She looks as though she had the pip.
Oh, what a difference we see
When faced by Mrs. Hippo P. !
For that 's the difference betwixt
The optimist and pessimist.



Hippopotamus, or Beshemoth.

SUNNY JIM

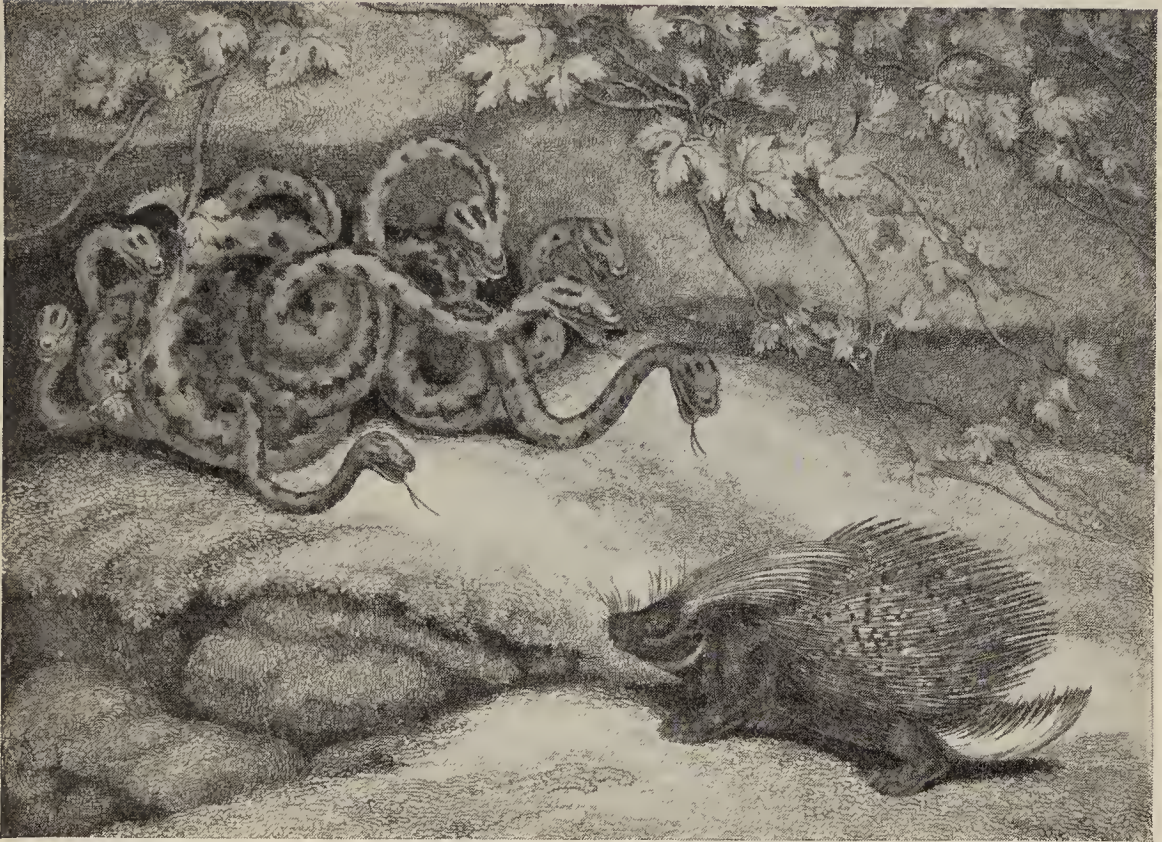
This Mouse became so small and weak
That you could hardly hear him squeak.
But luckily he found some Force,
And now is stronger than a horse,
For having drained it to the dregs,
It fairly put him on his legs,
And being sound in wind and limb
He leaps as high as Sunny Jim
(Who, whatsoever else he did,
Could not have jumped a pyramid).
(Advt.).



The Springing Mouse.

PORPENTINE AND SERPENTINE

One of the Porcupine's mistakes
Was when a nest of wriggling snakes
Confronted his astonished sight
And gave him quite a nasty fright.
For being prone to fear the worst
He naturally thought at first
That they were Adders—which they weren't ;
But when the truth he shortly learnt
He cried (with wit that one admires)
“ At any rate, they 're multipliers.”



Porcupine and Snakes.

MUSIC

The tuneful booming of the Bittern
Now rarely echoes in Great Britain,
Where ring the less melodious tones
Of klaxons and of saxophones,
Nor even a commercial boom
Dispels the universal gloom.



The Bittern (Understudy).

GRAZE ELEGY

When Bulls wind quickly o'er the lea
'Tis best to climb the nearest tree
Regardless of its size or shape
So long as it affords escape ;
Nor even he who danger scorns
Should ever take them by the horns,
For if his grip were ever lost
He 'd run the risk of being tossed ;
And if he ever should be floored
He 'd stand a chance of being gored,
And if so sad a thing occurred
It would distress the lowing herd.



Large Meadow Bull.

CUSTODY OF THE CHILD

Said the Hee Goat of Angora
To the Shee Goat of Angora,
“ Where ’s the Wee Goat of Angora ? ”

Said the Shee Goat of Angora
To the Hee Goat of Angora,
“ Don’t ask me, Goat of Angora.”

THE HEE GOAT OF ANGORA



THE SHEE GOAT OF ANGORA

Angora Goats.

THE LOST BEAVER

There was an old man with a beard
Who sat on a horse when it reared,
But he hadn't sat long
When the saddle went wrong
And (along with the man) disappeared.



The Great White Horse.

ORPHEUS BRITANNICUS

The Frog now leaves her watery nest
Prepared to do her level best,
And underneath a spreading oak
Commences her diurnal croak.
But having swallowed half a cake
Of [some one's] Toffee by mistake,
Her voice has now become so sweet
To listen to it is a treat,
And all the animals around
Are quite enchanted with the sound.

(Advt.).



The Singing Frog.

BACCHIC EFFECT

What funny things you see
When you haven't got your gun,
Strolling home to tea
When the day's work 's done.



The Sloth Bear

A DOUBTFUL SUBJECT

I wonder if the Reader thinks
This creature really is a Lynx ;
I must confess I “ hae me doots,”
And I believe it ’s Puss in Boots.



Booted Lynx (Lyncus Caligatus).

THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING

Hidden in their leafy villa
See Papa and Ma Gorilla
Fearful of a visitation
From the Board of Education.



Gorillas.

YOUTH AND AGE

The poor old Whale was badly ragg'd,
When she was feeling rather fagg'd,
By sharks of under twenty-five
Who wished to show they were alive.
And one (who it may be confessed
Was yet more shameless than the rest)
Exclaimed, " Oh, dear Victorian Whale,
How beautifully you part your tail ! "



Whale and Sharks.

A MUSICAL RIDE

There was a young Lady of Riga
Who went for a ride on a Tiger.
She returned from that ride
As Serge Daglief's bride,
And a smile on the face of the Tiger.



The Riga Tiger.

THE YOUNGEST

Tiger, Tiger, burning bright,
You were absolutely right
When you put your youngest cub
Out to service in a pub,
Where he settled down, and from
Earliest days was known as Tom,
Making friends, eschewing strife,
Save that he must get a wife
As his ancestors had done
(Usually more than one).
Of his children there are scores
Swarming in and out of doors ;
You can see them in the day,
Some asleep and some at play ;
You can hear them in the night
Chanting anthems of delight.



Several Other Tigers.

ON THE DOLE

Said the Parrot to the Sloth,
“ I should like to bite you both.”
Said the Sloth to Pretty Poll,
“ Fol de rol de rol de rol.”



Sloth and Parrot.

A SPLENDID CHARGER

Read about the Brindled Gnoo
In the Animals' Who 's Who,
And you 'll find his recreation 's
Crashing into railway stations,
Or into a local jury
Charging with unbrindled fury.



The Crinkled Gnuo.

IDLE CHATTER

Thank you, Christopher Columbus,
For acquainting us with numbers
Of the most amusing creatures
And the funny things they teach us.
These have found a leafy arbour
Less refined than Boston Harbour,
Tho' perhaps their conversation
Lends itself to imitation
When the patriotic Hearst
Plans an anti-British burst.



American Monkeys.

MUTUAL SURPRISE

A Lady bathing in the Nile
Was startled by a Crocodile.
To judge from what the artist drew,
The Crocodile was startled too.



Crocodile (some).

OLD SONG

I shot an arrow into the Hare,
And it made off as hard as it could tear.
 Tho' I couldn't follow it,
 I wished to swallow it,
But it went to earth I know not where.



The Potted Hare.

DINDON DIN'D OFF

Do not let us blame the Turkey
If his walk 's a little jerky ;
That 's because he is so portly,
And we hope to eat him shortly.
Were he but a little thinner,
How about our Christmas dinner ?



The Christmas Turkey.

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